

**AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

1.-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) A non-felting wool obtained by
- a) exposing the wool to plasma in pretreatment wherein the plasma treatment causes the removal of water and the formation of reactive molecules on the wool, and
  - b) treating the plasma-treated wool with an aqueous dispersion of cationic ~~polyurethanes~~ polyurethanes.

14. (New) A non-felting wool comprising wool comprised of wool fibers having a surface wherein high energy electrons, ions, and high energy neutral molecules and radicals have been formed on the surfaces of the wool fibers by pretreatment of exposure to plasma and the pretreated wool has been treated with an aqueous dispersion of cationic polyurethanes.

15. (New) The non-felting wool of Claim 14, wherein the wool is selected from raw wool, raw wool after the raw wool wash, dyed or undyed wool slubbing, dyes or undyed wool yarn, roving, drawn-loop knits, formed-loop knits, wovens and cloths.

16. (New) The non-felting wool of Claim 14, wherein a water content of the wool is from about 4 to about 40 weight %.

17. (New) The non-felting wool of Claim 14, wherein the plasma pretreatment of the wool is selected from low temperature plasma treatment at reduced pressure and a corona treatment at normal pressure.

18. (New) The non-felting wool of Claim 14, wherein the plasma pretreatment comprises exposing the wool to plasma generated by electromagnetic radiation at a frequency of about 1 kHz to about 3 GHz and power density of about

0.003 to about 3 W/cm<sup>3</sup> at pressure of about 0.01 to about 10 mbar for about 1 to about 600 sec.

19. (New) The non-felting wool of Claim 18, wherein the electromagnetic radiation is supplied either continuously or pulsed.

20. (New) The non-felting wool of Claim 14, wherein the plasma pretreatment exposure takes place for about 2 to about 5 minutes.

21. (New) The non-felting wool of Claim 14, wherein the plasma pretreatment is carried out at about 100 mbar to about 1 bar.

22. (New) The non-felting wool of Claim 14, wherein the plasma pretreatment is carried out using an electrodeless plasma reactor comprising a reactor and an outcoupling unit for microwaves.

23. (New) The non-felting wool of Claim 22, wherein the wool is placed underneath the outcoupling unit at a distance of about 1 to about 30 cm.

24. (New) The non-felting wool of Claim 22, wherein the plasma reactor further comprises vacuum pumps that evacuate the reactor and vacuum locks that allow material to enter and exit the reactor without leakage of air.

25. (New) The non-felting wool of Claim 14, wherein the plasma pretreatment comprises treatment with plasma by corona treatment.

26. (New) The non-felting wool of Claim 25, wherein the corona treatment comprises exposing the wool to high frequency discharge having a power density of about 0.01 to about 5 Ws/cm<sup>2</sup> for about 1 to about 60 seconds.

27. (New) The non-felting wool of Claim 25, wherein the plasma is generated by applying alternating voltage of about 1 to about 20 kV at a frequency of about 1kHz to about 3 GHz to an electrode comprising two poles wherein one or both poles are insulated with an insulator material.

28. (New) The non-felting wool of Claim 27, wherein alternating voltage is supplied in a manner selected from continuous, pulsed, pulsed with individual pulses, pulsed with pulse trains, and pulsed with pauses between pulses.

29. (New) The non-felting wool of Claim 27, wherein the distance from the electrode to the wool during plasma pretreatment is from 0 to about 15 mm.

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30. (New) The non-felting wool of Claim 14, wherein the aqueous dispersion of cationic polyurethanes has an average molecular weight of at least about 14,000 and about 200,000.

31. (New) The non-felting wool of Claim 14, wherein the aqueous dispersion of cationic polyurethanes is applied to wool at pH of about 2 to 7.

32. (New) The non-felting wool of Claim 14, wherein the concentration of the aqueous dispersion of cationic polyurethanes based on a solids content of the polyurethanes is about 0.5 to about 75 g/l.